

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Human, as long as they live, are individual creatures. They have the capability to create their feeling and want something. People in their lives always get in touch with other people or their society. In reality there are a lot of problems that appear in their daily lives. People cannot avoid problem that can appear from both internal and external factors.

*“A problem exists when there is a discrepancy between your present state and your perceived goal state and there is no readily apparent way to get from one to the other. In situations where the path to goal attainment is not clear or obvious, a problem exists, and you will have to engage in problem-solving behaviors” (Gerow, 1989: 27).*

In fact people cannot solve their problem automatically through their daily lives. Human being cannot be separated from the phenomenon and reality of life. Some people can drive and solve the problems. But some person give different response; they may see the problem as a border and find no way to solve the problem. One of the complexities of the problem itself consists of sadness. It appears when people have unfaithful feeling, hesitation and anxiety, which appear, in life as evident that as a human being has thought and feeling to face and try to solve his problem. Human being in facing their problem some-times uses their superiority to face their problem. Superiority is one of individual psychological principles. The person is indivisible unity in regard both to the mind-body relationship and to the various activities and function of mind. Furthermore, actions are guided by person's fundamental

attitudes toward life. Individual psychology insists on the fundamental unit of personality. Adler (in Hjelle & Ziegler, 1992: 141) believed that the major purpose of a personality theory should be to serve as an economical and fruitful guide of therapists, and ultimately for everyone, in effecting change toward more psychologically healthy behavior. Individual psychology insists on the fundamental unity of personality. All apparent dichotomies and multiplicities of life are organized in one-self consistent totally. No definite division can be made between mind and body, between conscious, or between reason and emotion. All behaviors are seen in relation to the final goal or success.

*Legally Blonde* is movie directed by Robert Luketic, produced by Marc E Platt, published by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios and starring by Reese Witherspoon. The year of producing the movie is in 2001. It is based on the 2001 novel of the same name by Amanda Brown and the writers of screen play are Karen Mc Cullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith.

The duration of the movie is one hour 36 minutes. The country of the movie is USA and use English as language. This movie is a comedy romantic movie because the story of the movie uses comedy genre. Some actors and actresses that support this movie are Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthews Davis, Victor Garber, Jennifer Coolidge, Holland Taylor and many more. The production targets teenagers (girls more than boys) who are content to watch a motion

Picture with a few laughs and happy ending. Like many comedies, *Legally Blonde* wants the plot to be more than a frame work upon which to hang the jokes, but it fails to provide enough substance for that to be case.

The director of *Legally Blonde* movie, Robert Luketic, was born in Sidney, New South Wales, Australia in 1973. He was graduated from Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Melbourne, Australia. Luketic jumps to filmography as director and writer. Films are directed by Robert Luketic.

such as *Titsiana Booberni* (1997), *Legally Blonde* (2001), *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton* (2004), *Monster -In Law* (2005), *Women In Law* (2006), *Pilot* (2006), and the newest is *21* (2008).

The story of *Legally Blonde* movie tells about Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) that has it all. She's the president of her sorority, a Hawaiian Tropic Girl, Miss June in her campus calendar and she is natural blonde. She has a boyfriend, the cutest boy on campus named Warner (Mathew Davis) and he wants nothing more to be Mrs. Warner Huntington III. But there is paradigm that the Blonder girl is not serious girl so the boy friend broke their loves. Elle proves she can be serious girl and proves her talent and capacities as a lawyer in Harvard Law School. But Law School is far from comfort. Elle must wage the battle of her life, for her love, for herself and for all the blonder who suffer endless indignities every day. In the end of story, Elle can actualize her ability as a lawyer by win the murderer case and she also get her new soul mate in the law school.

This movie got various responses from the public. There are two responses from audience, that is pro and contra. Some peoples are pro with this movie, while some other else are contra. The people who pro with this movie or like this movie is, for Steve Loucks he realizes that *Legally Blonde* has, totally capture the heart of many an audience member especially the between-to-teen set

In other side, the people who doesn't like this movie is JE De Matteo. Personally he didn't like this movie. He enjoyed the scenery, but he felt he wasted his time. Here are some adjectives used by De Matteo to draw this movie: dumb, painful, and superficial. Although there are pro contras to this movie, the response of the market is very good. This movie gets a lot of income from it first release at 13 July 2001. This movie can pierce the box office with the total income in the amount of US \$ 95.001<sub>2</sub>. The income is very big because this movie gets big attention from market especially teen audience that becomes target of this movie. From the movie industry word, this movie also gets good response. This movie was a Golden Globe Award nominee for Best Picture-Musical or Comedy and Witherspoon's performance also received a nomination for best actress-musical or comedy.

The *Legally Blonde* movie is interesting to be researched because it has same point interest. According to the researcher, the point interests of this movie are in plot, cinematography and the acting of the actress. The plot of the movie flows from exposition until ending regularly so the audience can understand the away of story well and the way of story does not broken off.

According to review by James Berardinelli, this movie combines three plot staples: the triumph over adversity, the romantic comedy and the courtroom comedy. The other point interest is cinematography. The setting of the places is very good; however, it is indoor or outdoor. The sound mix use DTS-stereo, so the sound is very good.

The last point interest is the acting of actress especially Reese Witherspoon. She has basically grown up in front of camera, has previously shown a strong grasp of both comedy and drama, and this is the most effective satirical performance. Besides, Reese Witherspoon's funny, nuanced performance makes this movie better than it would have been other wise.

The story of *Legally Blonde* movie is suitable with Elle Wood's superiority. *Superiority* is one of fundamental motive toward normal or abnormal people that will manifest it in different ways. So, the goal of superiority will be a negative (destructive) and a positive (constructive) direction. A negative direction is a case of poorly adjusted people who strive for superior through selfishness and concern for personal glory at the expense of others. In contrast, well-adjusted people express their striving in a positive direction (Hjelle, 1992:144). People is inspired from nature, behavior or attitude of other human living or non living to create the work. They have influenced the human's feeling and psychological a side in everything. The work is the way out of process of expression.

Hardjana (1985:65) adds that beside analyze an individual psychological of the author through his works; the followers of psychology of literature also

make use of their knowledge about the psychological problems and environment to interpret a literary work without connecting the literary work itself with the biography of the author. The psychological aspect is very interesting to create the literary works. They depict the psychic condition of human being through their literary works. Here, superiority of the woman's as a part of psychological studies gets special attention from Robert Luketic's, one of famous director. The ways that are done by one of major character to fulfill his desire are clearly portrayed in one of his movie.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in observing Elle Wood superiority when her problem appears and she has to solve her problems. That is why writers is interested understanding the relation based on the individual psychological approach for his research paper entitle: **“SUPERIORITY OF ELLE WOODS IN AMANDA BROWN’S *LEGALLY BLONDE* MOVIE DIRECTED BY ROBERT LUKETIC: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.”**

## **B. Literature Review**

*Legally Blonde* movie in Robert Luketic's is popular movie and it is interesting to analyze.

There is a researcher who has studied on Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* “Gender Equality in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde*: Feminist Approach”. She was Zanita (2008), the student Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Her research focused on gender equality by using feminist approach.

Fakhrurozi (2008), he was studied on Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* "Self-actualization of Elle Woods in Amanda Brown's *Legally Blonde* Movie Directed By Robert Luketic: A Humanistic Approach. His research focused on self-actualization by using a humanistic approach.

From the previous researcher above, the writer intends to complete the previous Research and to enrich the similar research. In this research, the researcher is going to apply this research in different approach. The researcher takes the individual psychological approach to reveal needs for superiority of Elle Woods as one of main character in this movie.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a problem statement. The problem of this research is "How is superiority of Elle Woods reflected in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde*?"

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

To carry out the study, the researcher will limit the study; the researcher tries to focus on the problems of Elle Wood's.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

According to problem statement above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie in terms of its structural elements, and

2. To analyze the movie based on individual psychological approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give information and knowledge to the reader, especially the literary study on *Legally Blonde* movie by Amanda Brown.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

To get better understanding of the movie, in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the movie especially based on the individual psychological approach.

## **G. Research Method**

In analyzing the study, the writer will apply qualitative method:

### **1. Object of the Study**

Of the study will be Elle Wood in *Legally Blonde*.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The data will be classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data. The primary data will be taken from movie itself, while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the research, the underlying theory and other materials concern, to the analysis.



### **3. Type of the Study**

This study will belong to qualitative research, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the movie *Legally Blonde* directed by Amanda Brown.

### **H. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method will be used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

1. Watching the movie several times, until the writer gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed
2. Reading some other resources related to the movie
3. Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources in data cards
4. Classifying the data into categories and develop them into a good unit.

### **I. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In this thesis the technique that will be used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique. The writer will describe the structural elements of the movie with individual psychology of literature. The collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through individual psychology of literature in this case by showing the influence of Elle Wood superiority in *Legally Blonde*: individual psychological Perspective. Then the researcher

draws conclusion the data from the *Legally Blonde* script based on the analysis.

## **J. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II will be underlying theory, covering nation of individual psychology theory, basic principles of individual psychology. Chapter III will be structural analysis, which includes the character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme and style. Chapter IV will be individual psychological analysis of the movie, it present the application of underlying theory in analyzing the problem. Chapter V will present conclusion and suggestion for this research paper, and also the synopsis of the story.